Statement-//

Year/Month *Average International Prices in USD (PMT)*

	Urea (C&F)	DAP (C&F)	MOP (C&F)	Phos Acid (C&F)	Rock Phosph-ate *(C&F)*	Ammo-nia (C&F)	Sulphur (C&F)
2002-03	110	183	120	342	56	126	84
2003-04	156	203	123	356	56	215	84
2004-05	202	260	180	403	59	244	90
2005-06	243	290	215	445	80	260	94
2006-07	257	330	213	464	81	300	76
April'07	335	505	250	566	79	352	138
September'07	340	534	280	566	121	263	237
February '08	410	922	450	1437	245	485	614
% change-April 2007 over 2002-03'	205%	176%	108%	65%	41%	179%	64%
% change-Feb'2008 over April 2007	22%	83%	80%	154%	210%	38%	345%

Diversion of PDS Grains

1588. SHRIVUAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years PDS diversion worth Rs. 31,500 crores has taken place;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made, culprits booked and exemplary punishments given;

(f) whether the Planning Commission had given any report on this sorry state of affairs;

(g) if so, the findings of this report; and

(h) whether any immediate remedial measures were taken to avoid such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This amount of diversion of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains was wrongly mentioned in Press Report in the Times of India dated 17th September, 2007. This Press Report seems to have used some figures of diversion reported in the study conducted

by ORG MARG Report of ORG MARG study was received in 2005. It covered data of 2003-04 and 2004-05. This report mentioned diversion of TPDS foodgrains in a number of States. However, the amount mentioned in the Press Report is incorrect. It seems to have used economic cost of foodgrains as the basis for calculation and seems to have assumed that there has been no improvement in functioning of TPDS in subsequent years. Therefore, this Press Report was not factually correct.

TPDS was also evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission. It submitted its report in 2005. This report also mentioned about diversion of TPDS foodgrains in many States because of exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying targeted families.

Based on PEO and ORG MARG reports, in consultation with State and Union Territory Governments, a 9-point Action Plan was evolved in 2006. This Action Plan is under implementation in States and Union Territories since July, 2006. A copy of the 9 Point Action Plan is given at statement *{See* below) Implementation of 9 point Action Plan has led to improvement in functioning of TPDS.

(e) In addition to implementation of 9-Point Action Plan the Government has taken a series of measures to strengthen TPDS. Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up in 26 States and UTs through National Council of Applied Economic Research and Indian Institute of Public Administration. Additionally a revised Citizens Charter has been issued
for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS. Furthermore, to ensure that TPDS foodgrains reached the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized. Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS has been initiateUse of new technologies such as Global Positioning System is being piloted. Revised Policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Statement

9-Point Action Plan

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAy lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/ agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Commottees, running of fair prise shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representives on Vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities-allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Procurement of Wheat

1589. SHRIMATIBRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

what is wheat production and procurement in 2004-05. 2005-06 and 2006-07;

the root causes for decline in wheat procurement in the country; and

the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The production of wheat in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and procurement in the corresponding Rabi Marketing Seasons (RMS) in the country is as follows:

(in lakh tonnes)

Crop Year	Production	Corresponding RMS	Procurement
2004-05	686	2005-06	147.9
2005-06	694	2006-07	92.3
2006-07	758	2007-08	111.3

(b) Th? main reasons for low procurement in RMS 2006-07 were less than targeted production, less market arrivals, negative market sentiments, high open market prices and high private participation. In RMS 2007-08 procurement of wheat was low on account of low market arrivals, high private participation and the possibility that a large number of farmers held back stocks in expectation of higher prices in later part of the year.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to improve procurement of wheat in RMS 2008-09 are as follows:—

(i) The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal for RMS 2008-09, are increase of Rs. 250 per quintal over the MSP fixed for RMS 2007-08, in order to encourage farmers to increase their production of wheat.

(ii) Import of 18 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in 2007-08 which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central Pool and the wheat stocks (as on 1.4.2008) is estimated to be more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of RMS 2008-09.

(iii) Wheat export on private account have been banned tiil further orders. Wheat export from Central Pool is also banned.

(iv) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008" has been issued under the Essential Commoditieis Act 1955 on 11.2.2008.